the Joint Plant Committee as given below:—

Year	Effective from	%average increase
1983	1-4-1983	4
1983	24-7-1983	4
1984	22-6-1984	15
1985	21-2-1985	15

(b) A comparative picture of percentage increases of steel prices in India and of the estimated Mill Composite Listed prices of Carbon Steel in some of the major steel producing countries in the world is given below:—

Name of the country	Percentage increase in prices		
	1983	1984	1985
India . .	8·0	15·0	15·0
U.S.A. . .	0·9	4·2	1·5
West Germany	1·0	1·2	0·2
U.K. . .	3·5	0·9	4·2
France . .	7·9	4·2	..

SOURCE : "World Steel Dynamics", the Steel Strategist September, 1985

However, 4% of the price increase in India effective from 1-4-83 and 2.5 % of that in 1984 did not accrue to the main steel producers in India as these were made to meet the additional requirement of funds for equalised railway freight and Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund respectively.

Prices of Newspapers

17. SMT. MAIMOONASULTAN:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement of the President of Indian and Eastern Newspaper Society which appeared in the "Times of India" of January 18, 1986 to the effect that increases in prices of newspapers and advertisements had become inevitable;

(b) if so, what is the extent of increases suggested by the newspaper industry; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) The Government has seen Press report to this effect.

(b) and (c) No such data is maintained by the Government. The newspaper industry is free to increase or decrease the prices of newspaper and rates of advertisements.

18. [*Transferred to the 26th Feb. 1986*]

Service Conditions of Staff-Artistes in AIR Doordarshan

19. SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN :
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ :
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have introduced regular pay-scales and elaborate conditions of service for staff-artistes of All India Radio and Doordarshan including pensionary and other retirement benefits;

(b) if so, the category of artistes who have been deprived of such benefits and reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have any proposal under their considera-